

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

MINUTES

Members Present: Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair, Hon. Dawn Blair, Assistant Hardin County Attorney, Co-Chair; Judge Libby Messer, Fayette Family Court; Dr. Melissa Currie, Chief, Norton Children's Pediatric Protection Specialist, University of Louisville; Deputy Commissioner Lesa Dennis, Department for Community Based Services, Janice Bright, RN, State Child Fatality Review Team; Dr. Christina Howard, Child Abuse Pediatrician, University of Kentucky; Lori Aldridge, Executive Director, Tri County CASA; Dr. Henrietta Bada, Department for Public Health; Dr. David Lohr, Medical Director, Department for Community Based Services; Betty Pennington, Family Resource and Youth Service Center and Isela Arras, Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Welcome:

Judge Melissa Moore Murphy, Chair

Judge Murphy welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lori Armstrong from the Department for Public Health. Lori is the new SUIDI Administrator and will be joining our meetings to share any additional information. Judge Murphy asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes or case summaries. With no changes, Dawn Blair made a motion to approve the minutes and case summaries which was seconded by Betty Pennington. Minute and Case Summaries stand as submitted.

The Panel is required to file an annual report by December 1st; however, we have not been able to review all the cases for FY 2020. Historically, the panel has extended their annual report to February 1st to publish a statistically accurate report. Dawn Blair made a motion to extend the deadline, which was seconded by Betty Pennington. With no objections, the panel will have their annual report published by February 1st.

Panel staff reported on preliminary trends identified for FY 2020:

- Overdose/ingestion cases are increasing – nearly doubled from last year
- Top substances ingested are suboxone and opiates (including fentanyl)
- Drownings and SUID cases have both increased
- PAHT cases are trending down

Panel staff requested DPH share their numbers with the panel to provide an overall state comparison. DPH reported their SUID cases are trending up as well. Courtney Short reported they have received 61 cases for 2021 and 82 cases in 2020. For 2019, Kentucky had a total of 52 cases. The SUID team is seeing the same risk factors as the panel including co-sleeping, items in the cribs and distracted or impaired caregivers. Preliminary numbers are showing an increase in suicide cases and staff will reach out to the state CFR team for additional data.

Judge Murphy reminded members of their earlier commitment to take these recommendations back to their respective agencies and advocate for implementation or feedback. Panel staff will reach out individually to members to address recommendations.

Pending Case:

NF-115-20 – Follow up regarding medical records and a missed opportunity at the local ED was identified. Dr. Currie was not able to attend the meeting during last month’s discussion of this case but wanted to discuss the delay in the PFM report. PFM is experiencing an unprecedented volume of cases, in addition to significant staffing turnover, which has resulted in major delays of final reports. They are seeking approved funding to resolve this issue, but they must prioritize their cases. In this case, there were no court dates, and the child was in a protected environment. Dr. Howard acknowledged there is a staff shortage across the state and a challenge in finalizing these extensive reports.

Case Review:

The following cases were reviewed by the Panel. A case summary of findings and recommendations are attached and made a part of these minutes.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Case #</u>	<u>Analyst</u>
1	F-060-20-PH	Joel Griffith
2	F-063-20-PH	Joel Griffith
3	F-064-20-PH	Joel Griffith
4	NF-056-20-C	Joel Griffith
4	F-065-20-PH	Joel Griffith
1	F-069-20-PH	Joel Griffith
2	F-079-20-PH	Joel Griffith
3	F-080-20-PH	Joel Griffith
4	NF-078-20-C	Joel Griffith
1	F-066-20-PH	Joel Griffith
2	NF-093-20-C	Joel Griffith
2	F-037-20-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
3	F-054-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
4	F-068-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-034-20-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	NF-036-20-C	Cindy Curtsinger
3	F-078-20-PH	Cindy Curtsinger
4	NF-085-20-NC	Cindy Curtsinger
1	NF-095-20-C	Cindy Curtsinger
2	F-057-20-PH	Joel Griffith
3	NF-73,74,75-20-C	Joel Griffith
4	NF-081-20-C	Joel Griffith

*NF-116-20-C, F-72-20-PH, and F-70-20-PH will be reviewed during the December 21st meeting.

Meeting adjourned